

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STUDY OF CAPACITY UTILIZATION AND EXPORT POTENTIAL
IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

A STUDY BY DR. PAUL CHEN-YOUNG UNDERTAKEN FOR THE JAMAICA MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE BANK OF AMERICA ENTITLED "CAPACITY UTILIZATION AND EXPORT POTENTIAL IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR" CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL EXCESS CAPACITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR BOTH IN THE PERIODS 1971-73 AND 1975-76. CAPACITY UTILIZATION RANGED BETWEEN 14 PERCENT IN PACKAGING AND 79 PERCENT IN COSMETICS, WITH THE AVERAGE RATE OF CAPACITY UTILIZATION AT 62 PERCENT. INTERVIEWS WITH ENTREPRENEURS IN THE EXPORT SECTOR INDICATED THAT THEY WERE WILLING AND ABLE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS, PROVIDED THEY COULD OBTAIN IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS, WORKING CAPITAL AND THE CORRECTION OF SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS, SUCH AS INADEQUATE FREIGHT SERVICES. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ESTIMATED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF CAPITAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS INDICATES THE NEED FOR MAJOR INFLOWS OF PRIVATE CAPITAL AND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EXPORT AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION INDUSTRIES. AIRGRAM A-18 OF APRIL 26 SUMMARIZES THE STUDY IN GREATER DETAIL AND PROVIDES MISSION COMMENT.

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